

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1253

By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to designate April 29, 2008, as "Tennessee  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Day on Capitol Hill."

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to honor and specially distinguish those organizations whose stated goals advance the most noble precepts of human endeavor and whose history of service in pursuing those goals represents an outstanding example to all who are touched by that record; and

WHEREAS, fraternities and sororities have played a major role in American college life since 1776 and have been major contributors to the cultural, social, and civic lives of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. is an outstanding example of the Greek system at work and is an organization possessed of a long tradition of excellence; and

WHEREAS, founded at Howard University in Washington, D.C., in 1908, the sorority grew from one undergraduate group of nine members to an international organization with more than 180,000 members in the United States, the Caribbean, Europe, and Africa; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha is divided into ten regions with Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alabama falling into the Southeastern Region; members of this region are encouraged to promote the sorority's legacy of sisterhood and service; and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Region is the fourth largest region in Alpha Kappa Alpha, consisting of 104 chapters and comprising 13 percent of its total membership; moreover, a total of twenty-nine chapters are located in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary July of 2008 in Washington, D.C., where the Sorority was founded; and

WHEREAS, inspired by its vision of *Celebrating Our Past, Serving Our Community, Honoring Our Sisterhood*, the members will honor its anniversary, celebrate its achievements

and resolve to build on the legacy of its founders by strengthening their commitment to service;  
and

WHEREAS, International President Barbara A. McKinzie implemented the 2006-2010 Centennial Program, an extraordinary service program of economics, service, and partnership, which embraces a five-pronged plan designed to excite, mobilize, and ignite members worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Region's leadership includes Centennial South Eastern Regional Director Juanita Sims Doty, Ed.D., a resident of Jackson, Mississippi, and Fellow of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Mississippi Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, the National Chairman of the Protocol Committee Francine Gilmer, a resident of Nashville, Tennessee, was appointed as the Centennial International President and is charged with promoting Alpha Kappa Alpha's rules and conventions governing correct or polite behavior in society or in a particular social or professional group setting; and

WHEREAS, as we observe "Tennessee Alpha Kappa Alpha Day at the Capitol," the members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority should be commended for their exemplary civic contributions, public policy service, scholarship, and partnerships forged to implement program activities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate April 29, 2008, as "Tennessee Alpha Kappa Alpha Day on Capitol Hill" as we recognize and commend the members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for their estimable civic contributions through the implementation of their Extraordinary Service Program and congratulate the officers and committee appointees from Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.